

LESSON 11: The Gift of Creation



AIM

To provide opportunities that will allow the children to understand that all nature is interdependent and that God has given us all we need to sustain life (2.3.2)

OUTCOME

Learners appreciate in creation God's goodness and generosity.

WHAT YOU NEED

- * Pictures and natural objects (1)
- * Trays or boxes with a variety of objects (4)
- * Copies of the worksheet (9) ⇨

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- 1 **The things God makes:** Have a collection of rocks, sand, leaves, seeds, pictures of animals, people and some water in small containers. Ask the children if they can think of what all these things may have in common. Lead them to understand that these are all part of God's creation and God made them all.
- 2 **The wonder and variety of Creation:** Give the children time to handle and exam the collection from God's creation. Let them talk about the colours and textures and shapes of the different objects.
- 3 **God is the Creator:** Nobody can make a real rock. No person can make a real leaf, or a flower, or a tree, or a seed and no one can make a living creature or teach a bird to sing.
- 4 **Classifying:** Give each group in the class a tray or box containing various objects such as a small container of water, a carrot, a flower, leaves, a rock, clay, sand, soil, piece of wood and some seeds. Ask the groups to classify the objects according to plant, animal and inanimate objects.
- 5 **Let the children decide:**
 - which is the most important element on the tray which would be needed to keep them alive (water)
 - which would provide nourishment (carrot)
 - what they could use to make a bowl or a cup (clay)
 - what they could use to build a wall (rock)
 - what they could use to grow more food (soil, seeds and water)
- 6 **God gives us everything we need:** Tell the children that God has given us everything we need live and to be happy. What do we need to have to live? We need the light and warmth and energy from the sun, and water to stay alive. We need air to breathe. We need food and the earth provides us with food.
- 7 **The story of St Francis:** It is important to point out that each and everything God made has a special place and serves a purpose. Tell the following story.

Many years ago there lived a man named Francis. The town he came from in Italy called Assisi. Because of this people called him Francis of Assisi. He often went from town to town speaking to people of God's great love for them.

As Francis walked from one town to another, he would have time to see and marvel at all God's creation. He walked in the shade of the trees and he listened to the song of the birds. He watched as ants busied themselves gathering food, and he saw little rabbits hop, hop, hopping from place to place. He understood that everything that God has created is important and serves a special purpose on the earth. He knew that we are part of one earth family so he called all God's creatures and creation brothers and sisters.

- 8 **Prayer:** Francis made up wonderful prayers to thank and praise God for all the things God has made. We will say together, "Praise to you, Our Creator," after each verse.

For our brother the sun: he brings us the day and gives us the light. (R)

For our sister the moon and the stars of the sky: your gifts of the night. (R)

For our dear sister water: we need her to live. She is cool, clean and clear. (R)

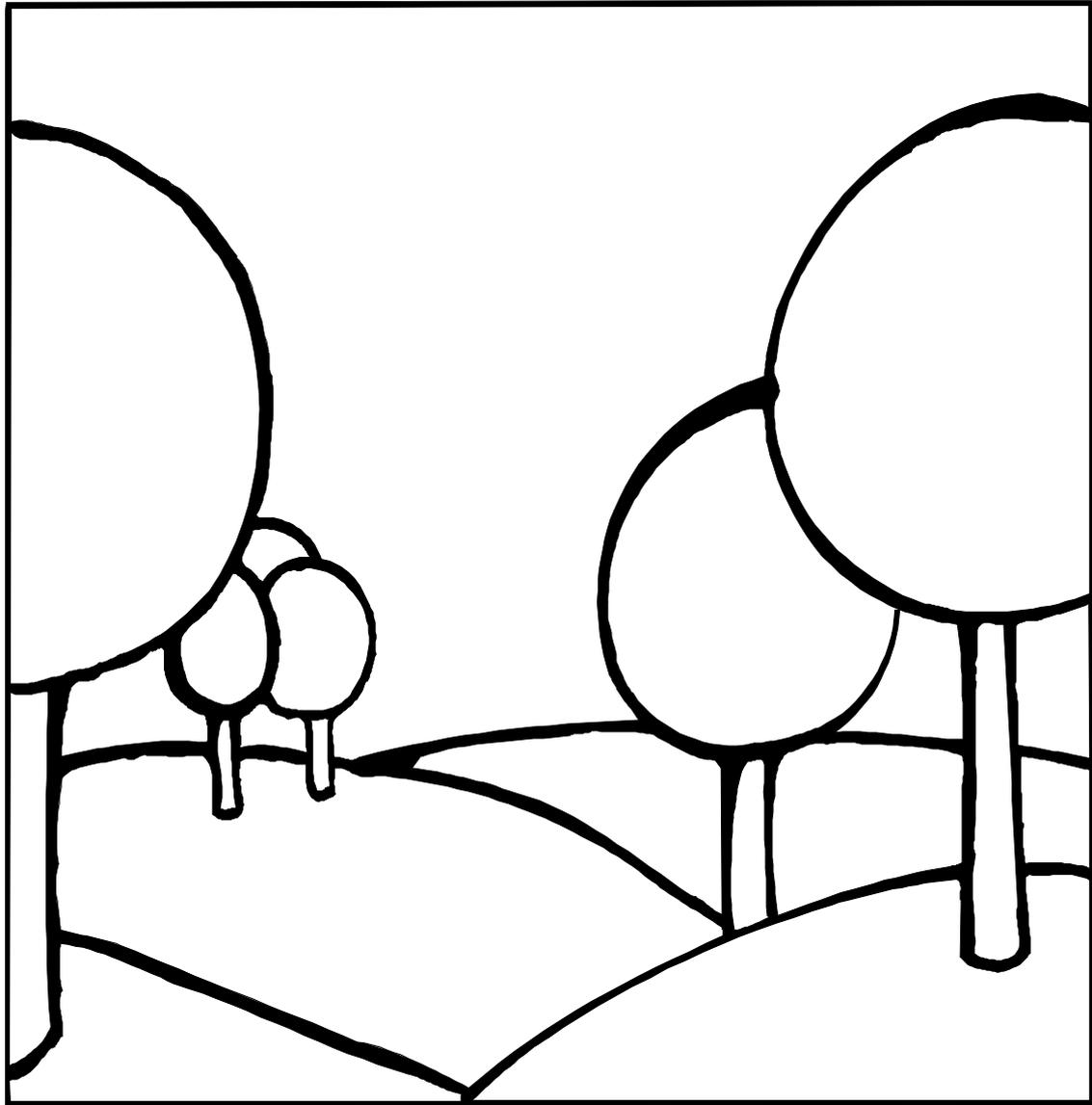
For our strong brother fire: he warms us and cheers us when darkness is near. (R)

- 9 **Drawing and colouring:** Give each child a copy of the worksheet.  ⇒ Let the children identify the pictures and talk about them. Instruct the children to add the sun, rabbits or other animals, flowers, grass, and a few rocks to their picture of trees and hills. The class then colours the picture.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

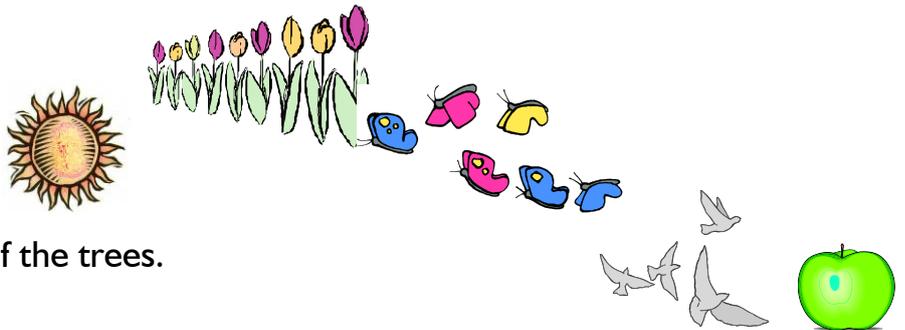
- 10 **Show and tell:** Ask the children to look for something from nature that God has made and bring it to school to show the rest of the class. Let them explain what it is, where they found it and what they know about it.

God Makes the World



Draw the sun
and some flowers
and butterflies
and birds in the sky.

Draw apples on one of the trees.



LESSON 12: Sharing in Creation



AIM

To lead the children to appreciate that God has given us the ability to use our creativity to provide for our needs and the needs of others (2.3.2)

OUTCOME

Learners understand that human work contributes to God's continuing creation.

WHAT YOU NEED

- * Objects made from different materials (5)
- * Pictures of different homes (6)
- * Coloured paper for weaving (13)

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- 1 Ask the children to give ideas of the **things we need** in order to live. We need are food, water, clothes and somewhere to live.
- 2 Ask the children what **things they would like** to have in addition to the things we need. The things we like to have are electricity and fuel to cook our food, to keep us warm and to work the machines like cars, trains and televisions.
- 3 **Some people** in the world have only what they can make for themselves. They grow their own food, they build their own houses and they make their own clothes.
- 4 **God gives us** the ability to make things. All the things that people make are made from the gifts God has given us.
- 5 **Identifying materials:** Give the children the chance to look around the classroom and see how many of God's gifts they can identify that have been used to make the things we use. Things in the classroom are often made from wood, from metals and minerals that come from the earth. Give each group a small collection of articles and ask them to see if they can tell what the articles have been made out of.
- 6 **We need a home to live in:** A home keeps us safe and warm in cold weather. Homes are built by people. They use all sorts of materials. Many homes are built of bricks. The bricks are made from clay taken from the earth and baked or dried. Often doors are made of wood. The wood comes from trees. The window frames may be made of steel or wood. Steel is made from iron found in the earth's crust. The glass in the windows is made by people from a type of sand.
- 7 **We need clothes to wear:** People make our clothes, and clothes can be made of all sorts of fabrics. Some clothes are made of cotton or linen. Cotton grows on a plant. The cotton is picked, made into fibres and woven into cloth. Flax is another plant which produces linen. Silkworms spin silk. Silk is often very expensive. Wool comes from sheep and it is used to make warm clothes for winter. Other fabrics made by people are polyester, viscose and nylon.
- 8 **We need food** in order to live. Farmers in every country grow fruit and vegetables for us to eat. Some farmers look after animals that provide us with milk and meat. God has given us all the plants and trees that we need for food. We can also grow things ourselves if we have a small garden.

- 9 **Prayer:** Dear God, we thank you for all the good things you have given us and we thank you for the people who make the things that we need. Amen.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

- 10 **Many medicines** come from plants. Some ropes and sacks are made from plants, as are baskets, mats and thatching for roofs. A lot of rubber comes from certain trees.
- 11 **A grace** which can be said or sung:

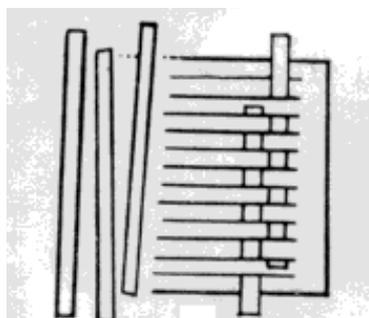
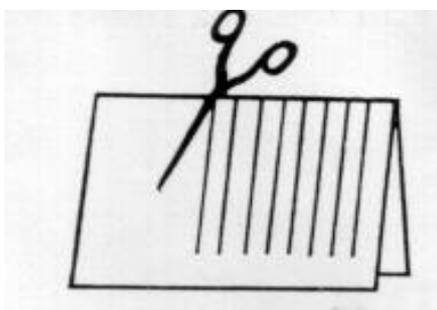
Thank you God for peanut butter.
Thank you God for bread and jam.
Thank you God for the food I'm eating.
Thank you God for who I am.

- 12 **Prepare simple foods** like sandwiches or jelly, or iced marie biscuits.
- 13 **Craft activity:** Paper weaving. Each child will need a 'loom' preferably made by the teacher.

Fold a piece of paper or light cardboard in half.

Start about 1,5 cm from the edge and cut slits at even intervals, leaving a solid border of about 1,5 cm at the bottom. Open the paper. The loom is now ready. Give each child strips of paper that are longer than the width of the loom. Teach the children to weave in basket fashion, in and out, starting over and under the first strip. The second strip is woven starting under and over. The third strip is woven like the first. Continue the alternating rows till the loom has been filled.

Explain to the children that this is how fabric is woven. (See the illustration below.)



LESSON 13: Friendship



AIM

To help learners develop an appreciation of friendship in relation to God and others (2.2.2, **10.4**)

OUTCOME

Learners understand the qualities that make for friendship.

WHAT YOU NEED

- * Story (2) ⇨
- * Paper squares and pairs of scissors, 'friendship' board, pins (7)
- * 'Friendship' board (8)
- * Games and puzzles (9)

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- 1 **Imagine:** Ask the children to close their eyes and to imagine that they are all alone. Say something like, "You want to play a game, but there is no one to play with. You have a birthday cake because it is your birthday, but there is no one at your party." Ask the children how they would feel if they were all alone.
- 2 **The Lion and the Mouse:** A friendship story, a fable of Aesop. The children can add actions to the story, or the story could be acted out.

A lion was taking an afternoon nap. (*Rest head on hands*) when a little mouse (*indicate little with thumb and forefinger*) ran by. (*Run on the spot.*) The lion put his big paw down on the mouse's tail. (*Bring hand down to knee.*)

The mouse trembled and shook with fear! "Oh, please, please let me go, O Great Lion," begged the mouse. But the lion said he was going to eat him all up. "I'm only a mouthful," said the mouse. "Please don't eat me up." The lion felt sorry for the tiny mouse and he decided to let him go. The mouse was very grateful and, not forgetting his manners, he said, "Thank you." He also added, "I'll do something kind for you some day." The lion smiled to himself. How could such a tiny creature help such a big strong lion like himself?

Sometime later, the lion stepped into a trap. He was caught in a huge net and he couldn't get out. The lion was very sad. He did not want to be taken to a circus or a zoo. He began to wail. The little mouse, who happened to be nearby, heard him and came to help. "I'll help you, O Great and Kind Lion," said the little mouse. The mouse immediately began to chew and gnaw through the ropes, and in no time the lion was set free. This is how the lion and the mouse became the best of friends. They even made up a special song:

Wherever I go and whatever I do

I want to be with you.

You're a friend so good and kind -

You're the best I'll ever find.

- 3 **What does it mean to be a friend?** Ask the kind of questions which will help the children reflect on the meaning of friendship.
 - How do you know someone is your friend?
 - What do friends do together?
 - How do you show that you are a friend to someone?

- 4 **Play a game:** The children form two circles, an inner and an outer circle. The children in the inner circle face the children in the outer circle. The children bow to each other and then each circle skips round and everyone sings, “Be my friend and come and play, come and play with me. We will run and we will skip, Oh how happy we will be.” When they stop, the children face each other and in pairs they join hands and skip together. Then the game continues.
- 5 We will have friends if we remember **God’s law of love**. God made us to be friends. We are God’s friends. We are friends with each other and we are friends with ourselves. Remind the children of the first activity, where they imagined that they were all alone. Explain to the children that we are never alone because God loves us and is with us all the time. Jesus is our friend that we can talk to whenever we want to.
- 6 **Prayer:** Invite the children to add other things they are grateful for.
Thank you, God, for friends.
Thank you for friends who share.
Thank you for friends who care.
Thank you for friends who are kind.
Thank you for friends who laugh and smile.
Thank you for being our friend too. Amen.
- 7 **Art and Craft activity:** Give each child a square of paper. The children fold the paper into four as they would a fan. Half a figure is drawn and cut out to produce two figures holding hands. The children can draw faces and complete the figures by colouring them in.



The figures represent friendship. Make a ‘Friendship board’ and pin the figures on to the board. (Leave a space in the middle which will be used in the following lesson.) Put up a sentence that says, “We have special friends”.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

- 8 The children can think of simple **sentences about friendship**, such as: Friends take turns. Friends are kind. Friends share. The teacher writes the sentences on the board. The children practise reading the sentences. These ideas could be added to the ‘friendship board.’
- 9 Let the children take part in a **co-operative activity**, such as two children working on a puzzle together.
- 10 The children can **play act situations** showing how we behave as friends in certain situations.

LESSON 14: Playing Our Part



WHAT YOU NEED

- * Verse (1) ⇒
- * Story (3) ⇒
- * Play (6) ⇒

AIM

That the children appreciate God's goodness and care for all creation (2.1.2, 7.2)

OUTCOME

Learners show appreciation of God's care by taking care of things themselves.

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- 1 Begin with the following **verse**. Let the children repeat the words.

The farmer's busy growing wheat

The baker's busy baking bread.

The gardener's gathering tomatoes

And digging up potatoes.

And mother's busy cooking –

So we know what we will do,

We will help and be busy, too.

We'll happily set the table,

And do what we are able

To make it nice and neat,

Before we sit down to eat.

(Rita Bull)

- 2 **Discuss** how many people do their part and how we should help wherever we can. When we are helpful, we are showing love and kindness to others. Let the children suggest ways of being helpful. When we do things with others we can get all lot done.
- 3 **Story:** Mr Mouse and Mrs Mouse had a family of twenty-nine children. Mrs Mouse worked as a roller skating instructor and Mr Mouse worked at the cheese factory. One evening as Mrs Mouse was busy cooking supper and Mr Mouse was resting in front of the television, the front doorbell rang. The eldest child went to answer the door. There was no one there! When he looked down he saw a basket and in the basket was a tiny baby mouse. He brought the baby inside and everyone gathered round to see. Tied to the basket was a note that read, 'Please look after this baby.' Mrs Mouse gasped and Mr Mouse gasped. Mrs Mouse said, 'Another mouse to feed!'

The next day Mr Mouse went to look for a part time job which he could do after he had worked at the cheese factory. He now needed to have two jobs so that there would be enough money for food and clothes for all the children. Every night when he came home, he was so exhausted, he fell asleep right in front of the television. Mrs Mouse was so busy

cleaning and cooking and checking homework and seeing to the baby, that she too was exhausted.

The children got together. They were worried about their parents. The eldest said, 'There are two of them and there are thirty of us. If thirty mice all helped then it would be much easier for the two who are now doing all the work.' They made plans and the older children earned money by mowing lawns, baby-sitting, and having a newspaper round. The younger children helped with the cleaning and the cooking. They also helped each other with homework.

With everybody helping, there was now time for fun. The tiny baby mouse grew and she was happy to have so many brothers and sisters. And they all lived happily ever after.

4 Jesus told us how much **God loves** and cares for us. God our Creator, cares for all the rocks and stones, the mountains and the sea. God cares for things that live and grow, and God cares for both you and me!

5 **Jesus shows us** how to help. And Jesus shows us how to care. Jesus made friends with lonely people and those who were left out. He healed people who were sick. He cured blind people and he taught people. He told people stories to help them understand and he taught people to pray. He also fed people when they had no food.

6 **A Play:** *Jesus feeds the five thousand*

NARRATOR: Many people had followed Jesus. He taught them and he helped those who were sick. Now it was evening time.

PETER: It is very late and we are far from the shops.

ANDREW: I think the people should go home so that they can get something to eat.

JESUS: Get the people something to eat yourselves.

PHILIP: To buy bread would cost a huge amount of money.

JESUS: Does anyone have any bread?

BOY: I have some food my mother gave me. I have five loaves and two fishes.

JESUS: Thank you very much. *(To the apostles)* Ask the people to sit in groups. *(Jesus takes the bread and fish and looks up to heaven.)* Thank you, loving Father, for this bread. *(Jesus breaks the bread and hands it to the disciples)* Pass this food round to all the people.

NARRATOR: Everyone had enough to eat and no one had to go home hungry. The twelve disciples each took a basket and filled it with what was left over.